

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. F-6-129

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Windy Hill Farm
other Vallonne (preferred)

2. Location

street and number 7060 Red Bird Lane not for publication
city, town Thurmont X vicinity
county Frederick

3. Owner of Property (gives names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Joseph E. Butler, Jr.
street and number 7060 Red Bird Lane telephone 301-271-3032
city, town Thurmont state Maryland zip code 21788

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber 1443 folio 28
city, town Frederick tax map 32 tax parcel 18 tax ID number N/A

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

____ Contributing Resource in National Register District
____ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
____ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
____ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
____ Recorded by HABS/HAER
____ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
____ Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
____ district	____ public	<u>X</u> agriculture	Contributing Noncontributing
<u>X</u> building(s)	<u>X</u> private	____ commerce/trade	3 buildings
____ structure	____ both	____ defense	____ sites
____ site		<u>X</u> domestic	1 structures
____ object		____ education	____ objects
		____ funerary	4 Total
		____ government	
		____ health care	
		____ industry	
		____ landscape	
		____ recreation/culture	
		____ religion	
		____ social	
		____ transportation	
		____ work in progress	
		____ unknown	
		____ vacant/not in use	
		____ other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			0

7. Description

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Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Summary

Vallone, also known as the Windy Hill Farm, totaling 236 acres, retains all of its historic acreage as well as the historic (c. 1815) manor house, a smokehouse, shed, and bank barn foundations. It is located on the southeast side of the Catoctin Mountain, due east of the Catoctin Furnace Historic District. The main house is sited on a cleared prominence, facing southwest. The house yard clearing and meadows to the south and east overlook the Frederick Valley below. Abandoned fishponds are located to the west of the house along the entrance drive. The area of the former fishponds is now overgrown with deciduous trees.

General Description

The farmhouse is located on high ground facing to the southwest and overlooking meadows and the remaining foundation of a bank barn. It is a two story, two part dwelling constructed from local sandstone of the type found along the eastern slopes of the Catoctin Range and South Mountain in western Frederick County. For ease in description, the front elevation will be characterized as facing south, although it is set slightly on a diagonal and faces southwest. The driveway to the house from Maryland Route 806 approaches the house from the west. It passes through woods with areas of disturbed ground which were once ponds for a fish hatchery. Approximately 500 feet southwest of the house are stone foundations of a barn and an adjoining shed.

The oldest part of the house is the four easterly bays, with a window, door, window, window façade arrangement. This section has well-defined corner stones at all visible corners, indicating that it was a fully free-standing building. Later, probably in the 1850s, according to remaining architectural evidence and documentary research, a two-bay addition was constructed against the west gable end of the original house. The addition was wider than the original dwelling, so the roof slope on the north side of the addition has a "kick" to accommodate the longer slope of this side of the roof. The front slope was constructed equally with the slope of the original house roof so that the roofline at the front would be uniform. When the addition was built, a two-story porch was constructed along the rear elevation of the original house into the offset created by the wider addition. This two story porch was apparently extended around the east gable of the original house where two doors were cut into the wall and later removed and walled shut with stone. The gable end porch was removed at an unknown time.

Windows in both sections of the house have six over six light sash which replace the original window sash. The window frames in the original section of the house also appear to have been replaced. Window frames in the addition are distinguishable from those in the original section and help to identify the addition as dating from the middle third of the 19th

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century. In the addition, the frames are set beneath wide wooden lintels exposed at the exterior of the building. This same type of construction was used for the first and second story doors in the east gable end of the original section, indicating that these doors were added at the time of construction of the addition.

Other windows include three front-facing gabled dormers dating from the mid 20th century. At the rear roof, additional shed dormers were added more recently.

The front entrance is located in the third bay from the east end of the building. There is no evidence of any sort of transom or other treatment over the door. The door lintel is at a lower level than the adjacent window lintels, an unusual feature for early 19th century houses. Other entrances are located at the rear of the house opening onto the two-story porch from the addition, and from the north elevation of the addition.

Chimneys are located inside the gable ends of the house and inside the west gable end of the original building. A large one-story shed roofed porch has been added along the south, west and part of the north elevations.

The interior of the house has been altered extensively with replaced walls, stairs and trim.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below				
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> Archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion		
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history		
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/	<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____		
Specific dates c. 1815; c. 1856		Architect/Builder unknown				
Construction dates c. 1815; c. 1856						
Evaluation for:						
<input type="checkbox"/> National Register		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maryland Register		<input type="checkbox"/> not evaluated		

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Summary of Significance

The Vallonne Farm is significant as an integral component of the Catoctin Furnace iron works throughout much of the history of the complex. Located on one (possibly several) of the original land patents granted to the Johnson brothers and their partners for the furnace operation, the tract probably originally provided standing timber and possibly iron ore or limestone. Eventually, the land was farmed with its substantial stone dwelling house constructed between 1811 and 1820, and expanded c.1856. The farm appears to have passed in and out of ownership by the numerous owners of the Catoctin Furnace. Inclusion of the Vallonne Farm acreage in several transfers of the large Catoctin Furnace property transfers has made a definitive chain of title impossible. The significance of the Catoctin Furnace and its associated resources was recorded as the Catoctin Furnace Historic District, MIHP # F-2, in the National Register of Historic Places (1971). The original suggested district boundaries included the Vallonne Farm, however the farm was removed from the district when the boundary was dramatically reduced in size. The Vallonne Farm should be appended as a contributing resource to that district.

Historic Context

The following historic context is taken from the Catoctin Furnace Historic District documentation.

The history of Catoctin Furnace begins in the mid-1770's when Thomas Johnson, later Governor of Maryland, a leader of the American Revolution, and his brothers, began operation of the first iron furnace at Catoctin with Stack #1 which is no longer extant (1971). Correspondence between Johnson and the Council of Safety in Annapolis (in the Archives of Maryland) confirms its

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existence. The exact extent of the output of the furnace making iron products for the American Revolution has not yet been determined.

In the first years of the nineteenth century Governor Johnson's brother, Baker Johnson, Senior, obtained sole ownership of the furnace. From 1803 until his death in 1811 Baker Johnson operated the furnace, expanding and developing its capacity. "Auburn," which stands to the south of the furnace was built during this period. Catoctin Manor House ruin stands immediately to the north of the furnaces and dates between 1790 and 1850.

When Baker Johnson Senior died, Catoctin Furnace was valued at \$12,500. It comprised several thousand acres of land, a large blast furnace and Stack #1; a wheel and bellows; Catoctin Manor House, where the iron master was believed to have lived; two warehouses, a chopping mill, a stonemith's shop, barns, stables, a corn house, fifteen to twenty workers' houses; a charcoal house, a casting house and a forge.

Baker Johnson's heirs sold the furnace to two Mayberry brothers from Philadelphia who operated the company until 1820. It then became the property of John Brien who manufactured hollow ware. Brien modernized Stack #1, then approximately fifty years old, added a carriage house, an ice house, two mills, and a large garden.

In 1856 the next owner built Stack #2, "Isabella," the above-ground remains of which stand extant (1971). The operation which then covered 7,000 acres included railroad tracks and cars for the transportation of ore. Previously horse and mule-drawn wagons had been used.

In the mid-1850's Jacob Kunkel [sic] took over the Catoctin Furnace complex and operated the company for thirty years. Kunkel [sic] erected Stack #3, "Deborah," and added 3,000 acres to the furnace company lands. His ownership marks the peak of the furnace complex as to production and physical plant size. He employed 300 wood choppers and coal makers, 100 miners and 100 men working at the blast furnaces which operated twenty-four hours a day. He also took full responsibility for the private railroad. After Kunkel's death in 1886 there was a period in the history of the company which was plagued with financial difficulties. In an era when large-scale steel production dominated the economy

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of the United States, high operating costs, low prices, and decreased demand for pig iron contributed to the decline of this company.¹

Resource History

The early history of the tract later known as Vallonne Farm is shrouded in mystery, included within the large combined acreage owned by the Johnson brothers and later Col. Baker Johnson. It appears that the acreage was originally part of the resurvey of land by Col. Baker Johnson into *Auburn*, where he built his elegant country mansion by the same name around 1803. Following the Colonel's death in 1811, the Catoctin Furnace and much of the associated land was sold, with the exception of the Auburn mansion parcel, which was inherited by his son Baker, and a farm just south of the subject tract, which was devised to William Johnson.²

The sale of Catoctin Furnace in 1811 provides a clue that the subject house was probably not yet in existence. A sale advertisement in the *Frederick-Town Herald*, dated July 13, 1811, described all the improvements on the more than 5,000 acres of land. In addition to the furnace structures and workers dwelling houses, the only other house described was the two-story stone house later known as the Iron Master's House or Catoctin Manor House. While some "arable land" was mentioned, "a great part of it well set with timothy," no stone farmhouse appeared to have been part of the property. Mssr's Thomas and Willoughby Mayberry of Philadelphia were the purchasers of the Catoctin Furnace in 1811. With a large mortgage on the property, the Mayberrys' ownership of the furnace was fraught with financial difficulty, probably due to the War of 1812, and the company failed in 1819.³

Despite the failure of the furnace, the Mayberrys appear to have made substantial improvements, evidenced by the sale advertisement in the *Frederick-Town Herald* dated April 1, 1820. In addition to several more "Houses for Workmen," the property included "Two Small Farms." The "new Two-story STONE HOUSE, nearly finished, and in the first style," on one of the farms may have been a description of the eastern four-bay section of the stone house on Vallonne Farm. The stone house, "in the first style," was perhaps more elaborate than one would expect for the farmhouse of a small tenant farm; the other farm was described with a "comfortable Log Dwelling and Barn," probably the home of the tenant farmer who "made more

¹ Mrs. Preston Parish, "Catoctin Furnace Historic District," National Register of Historic Places documentation, December 1971, Section 8. Note: Mrs. Preston did not cite references for the information found in this section, however much of it can be found in J. Thomas Scharf, *History of Western Maryland*, (1882), Vol. I, (Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., reprint, 1968), pp. 629-630.

² Frederick Co. Land Record WR 41/637; Last Will and Testament of Col. Baker Johnson, Frederick Co. Will Book RB 1/192.

³ Anne Cissel, "History of Auburn Manor," unpublished manuscript, Catoctin Furnace vertical file, Frederick Co. Office of Preservation Planner, Winchester Hall, Frederick, MD.

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than a sufficiency of hay for the works.”⁴ Since the iron master would have occupied the Catoctin Manor House, and the Mayberrys did not own Auburn mansion, it is quite likely the new stone house was constructed as the country manor for the Mayberrys, begun shortly after their purchase of the property.

The new purchaser of the Catoctin Furnace and its associated land in 1822, John Brien, was an experienced iron furnace operator. Unfortunately, his death just twelve years later in 1834, found his estate in enormous debt and again the Catoctin Furnace was sold through a Court of Equity. Nephew John McPherson Brien purchased the furnace in 1841, and sold it in 1843 to Peregrine Fitzhugh (a relative by marriage).⁵ Fitzhugh and his relatives subdivided and sold numerous parcels of the furnace property, including 200 acres to William Stokes in 1856.⁶

The William Stokes tract was described as beginning “at the south west corner of a tract of land called *The First Dividend*, adjoining on the northeast with “the lands of Staub and Joseph Brown,” and to the south the land of William Johnson. It was transferred as two parcels, one 160 acres and the other 40 acres, possibly the two small farms described in 1820. Viewed in relation to the 1858 Bond Map of Frederick County (see attached copy), the William Stokes farm was included within the dotted outline of the furnace property, projecting from the eastern boundary, the property of “J. Brown” shown to the northeast and that of “Wm Johnson” to the south. Architectural features associated with the two-story north addition of the Vallonne Farm house indicate that William Stokes probably made the improvement shortly after his purchase of the farm.

Although the William Stokes deed was officially recorded in 1856, the farm was included in an 1864 equity case involving the Central Bank of Frederick County and Sophia Fitzhugh, sister of Peregrine and grantee of the William Stokes deed, versus the rest of the Fitzhugh family. The Catoctin Furnace property had been in Court of Equity in 1858, when it was sold to John Kunkle, indicating that there were indeed serious financial problems within the Fitzhugh holdings. The 1866 deed, which officially transferred the Catoctin Furnace to John B. Kunkle (son of the original purchaser John Kunkle who died in 1861), specifically excluded from the transfer the “farm formerly of William Stokes.”⁷ The William Stokes farm had been sold in 1865 by the trustee of the court to Edwin P. Hatcher.⁸ Hatcher too lost his property in equity

⁴ Frederick-Town Herald, April 1, 1820, microfilm collection, C. Burr Artz Library, Frederick, MD.

⁵ Frederick Co. Land Record HS 19/213.

⁶ Frederick Co. Land Record ES 10/33.

⁷ Frederick Co. Land Record JWLC 4/278.

⁸ Frederick Co. Land Record JWLC 2/305.

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court in 1869. Court trustee, Charles W. Ross sold the former Stokes farm in 1871 to John B. Kunkle (see attached 1873 map).⁹

John B. Kunkle's ownership, while perhaps the highpoint of the furnace complex, was not without its problems as well. An equity case in 1888 produced one of the best plats of the aggregate property (see attached copy). The Vallonne Farm (formerly William Stokes farm) appeared on this plat as part of the parcel transferred to J. B. Kunkle from Chas. W. Ross. It is from this plat that the location of the farm parcel can be associated with the *Auburn* tract of Col. Baker Johnson (c.1803) and located in the vicinity of the southwest corner of *The First Dividend*. In 1898, Kunkle was again in equity court and the Catoctin Mountain Iron Co. (formerly Catoctin Furnace) was sold to a new partnership called the Blue Mountain Iron and Steel Company. The 200-acre parcel No. 4, simply known as "The Farm," was sold to George N. English, never to be associated with the furnace complex again.¹⁰

In 1940, following the death of her husband, Mattie English sold the Vallonne Farm to H. Donald and Edith L. Fraley, 204 acres in three parcels, the Englishs having added a four-acre parcel in 1934.¹¹ The Fraleys sold the farm to Dabney Crook Taylor in 1945, who sold it to Martin Mathwig in 1953.¹² Mathwig purchased an adjoining 30-acre parcel in 1962 and in 1964 sold both parcels as a 236-acre farm to Earle and Mildred Shankle.¹³

It appears the Shankles coined the name "Windy Hill Farm," this name first appeared on their deed of conveyance in 1980 to Mildred Shankle, Loretta Lee Roberts, and Sandra E. Williams.¹⁴ It was probably during the Shankle ownership that portions of the farm were

⁹ Frederick Co. Land Record CM 7/496.

¹⁰ Frederick Co. Land Record DHH 3/94. Note: the Blue Mt. Iron & Steel Co. went bankrupt in 1908 and was sold to Joseph E. Thropp (STH 284/567); in 1923, Thropp sold the more 7,000-acre Catoctin Iron Works, "excepting the 200 acre farm sold to English in 1898," to Lancelot Jacques and Stanley Hauver (344/369).

¹¹ Frederick Co. Land Records 426/37 and 395/61.

¹² Frederick Co. Land Records 450/248 and 522/441.

¹³ Frederick Co. Land Records 668/587 and 712/77.

¹⁴ Frederick Co. Land Record 1117/647.

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converted to fishponds (see attached USGS map from 1971). In 1986, the Windy Hill Farm was sold to Joseph E. and Susan Butler, and in 1987 the property was transferred to Joseph E. (Jeb) Butler and the name was changed to Vallonne Farm.¹⁵

¹⁵ Frederick Co. Land Record 1443/28.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property Approximately 33 acres

Acreage of historical setting Approximately 33 acres

Quadrangle name Catoctin Furnace

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary begins at a point on the entrance drive where an old track intersects from the north, running south across the drive to the western bank of the farm pond, then following the 440' contour line southeast then northeast to a point where the line is intersected by a creek, then turning northwest following the creek bed to an intersection with the 480' contour line, then turning west/southwest following the 480' contour line to an intersection with the old track, then turning south following the east side of the old track to the place of beginning (see attached USGS map).

The boundary encompasses the historic setting of the farmhouse and its associated buildings.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title Paula S. Reed, PhD., Architectural Historian; Edie Wallace, Historian

organization Paula S. Reed & Associates, Inc.

date 29 January 2002

street & number 105 N. Potomac Street

telephone 301-739-2070

city or town Hagerstown

state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

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Bibliography

Cissel, Anne. "History of Auburn Manor," unpublished manuscript, Catoctin Furnace vertical file, Frederick Co. Office of Preservation Planner, Winchester Hall, Frederick, MD.

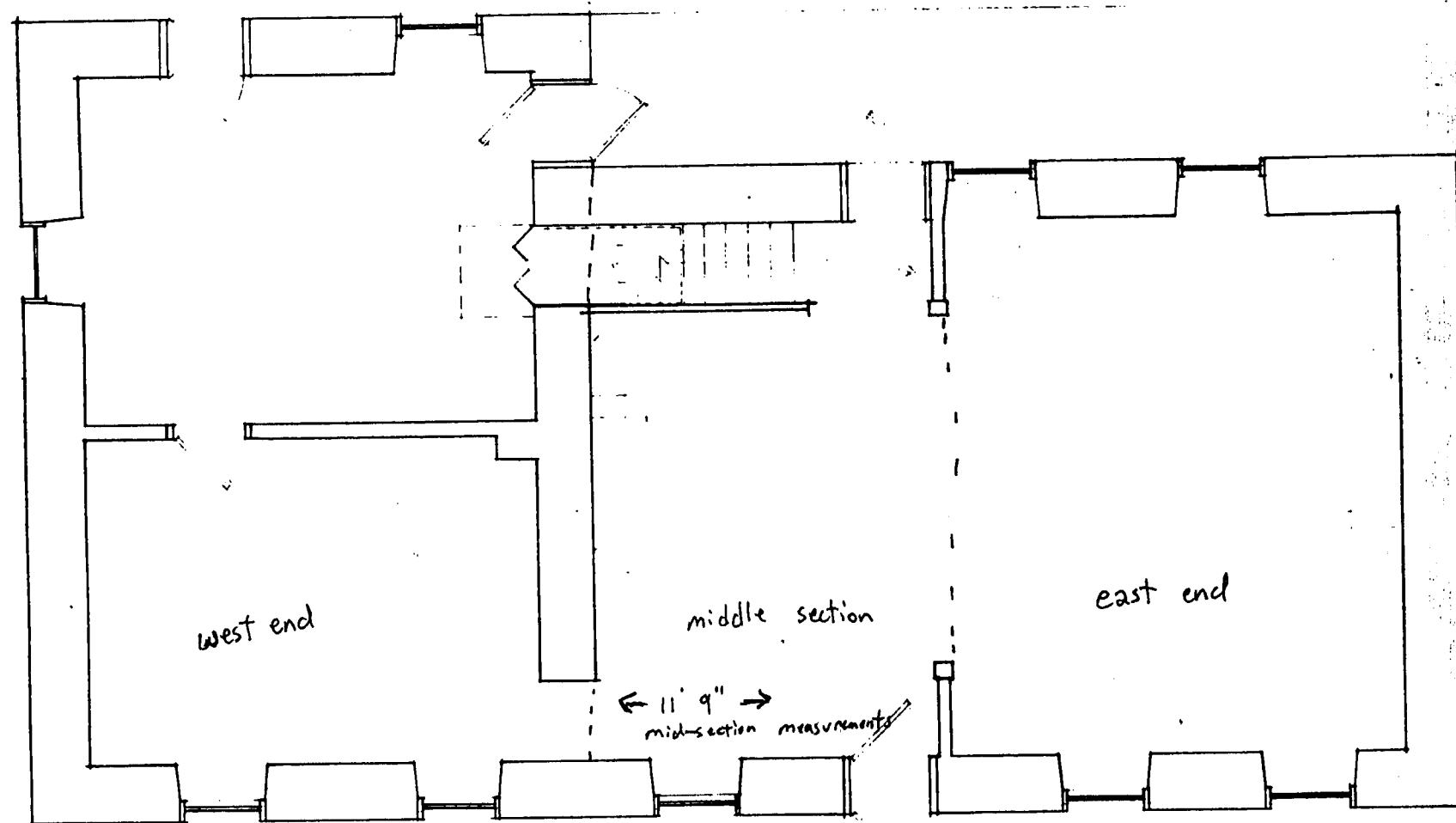
Frederick County Land Records, Frederick Co. Courthouse, Frederick, MD.

Frederick County Estate Records, Frederick Co. Courthouse, Frederick, MD.

Frederick-Town Herald. Microfilm collection, C. Burr Artz Library, Frederick, MD.

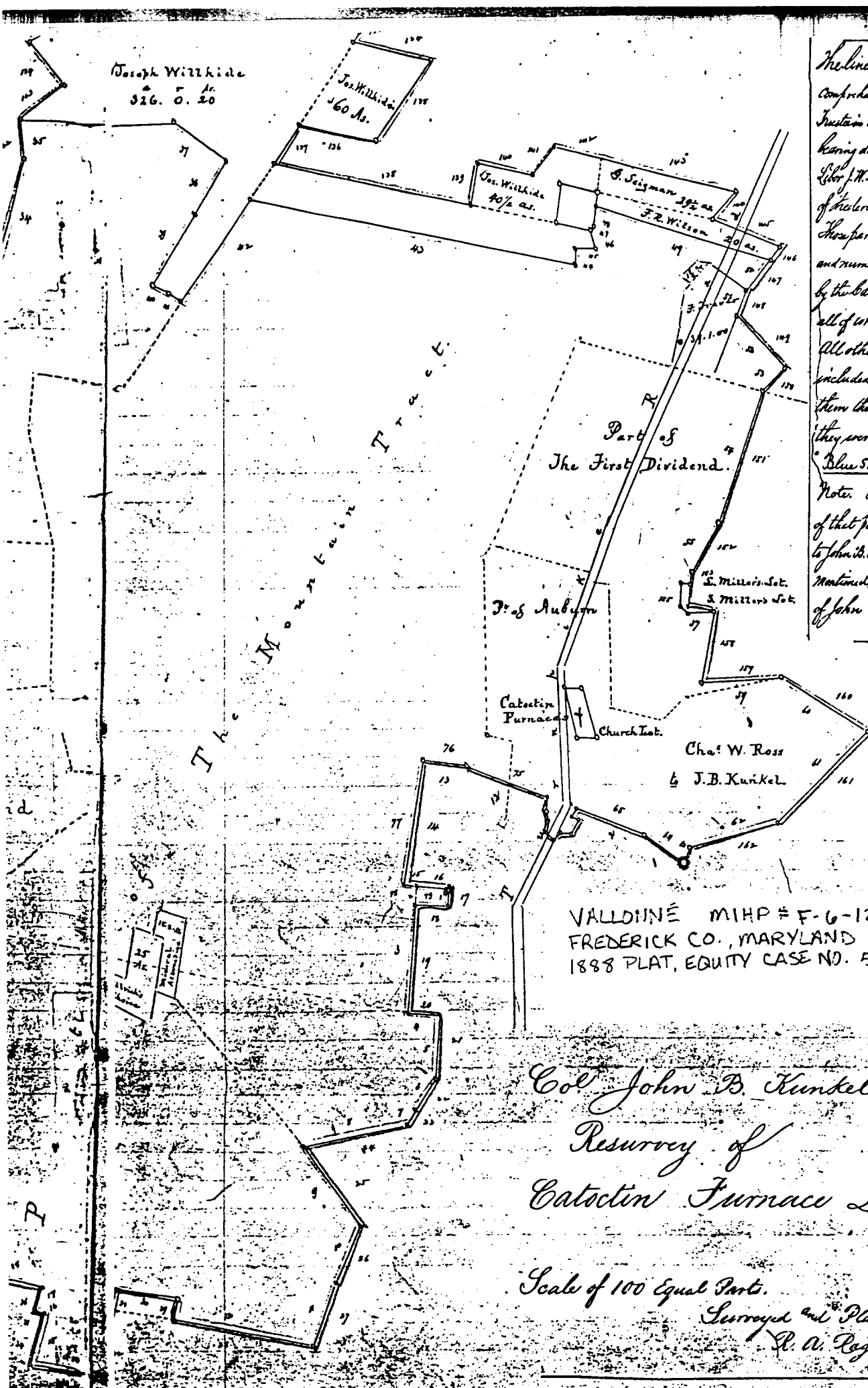
Parish, Mrs. Preston. "Catoctin Furnace Historic District," National Register of Historic Places documentation, December 1971.

Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Western Maryland*, (1882), Vol. I, Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., reprint, 1968.



First Floor Plan

VALLONNÉ MIHP#F-6-129
 FREDERICK CO., MD
 FLOOR PLAN
 (From Susan C. Butler, "Living History -
 The Saga of Windy Hills Farm," 1986)



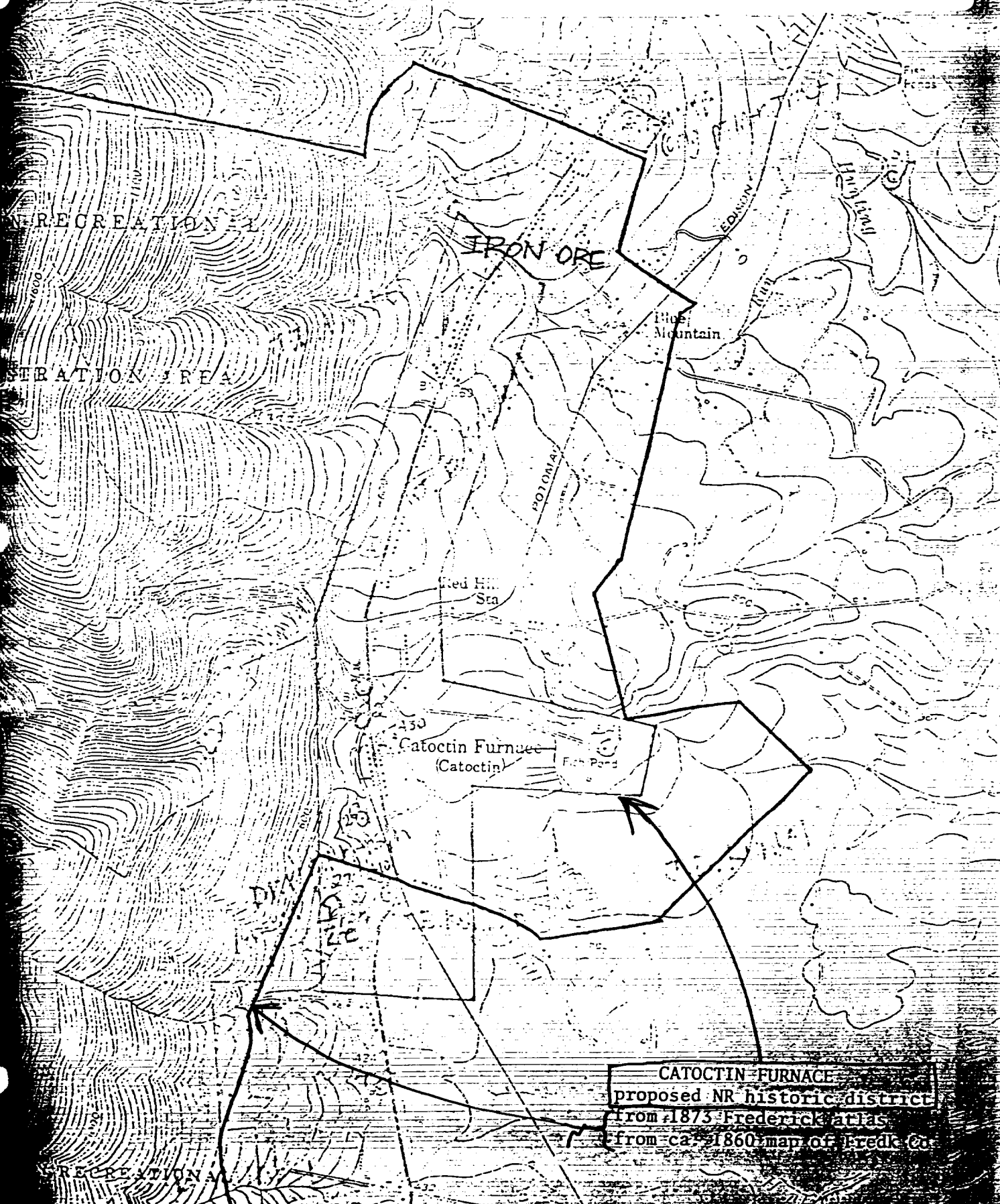
The lines of this Resurvey shaded Red.
 Comprehend the land conveyed by William J. Ross by
 Trustee's Equity No 2885 to John B. Kunkel by Ind
 bearing date 21st day of August 1866 & recorded in
 Liber J. W. L. No 4 Folio 278, one of the Land Records
 of Frederick County.
 Those parts of the Resurvey shaded Yellow
 and numbered from 1 to 13 inclusive are conveyed
 by the Catocin Iron Company to sundry persons
 all of which deeds are duly recorded.
 All other tracts are parts of tracts of land
 included in this survey have written papers
 them the names of the persons from whom
 they were purchased.
 Blue Shade the entire Outline
 Note. The Red Shade line Exclusion
 of that part sold by Charles W. Ross Trustee
 to John B. Kunkel is subject to the Annulment
 mentioned in the last will and testament
 of John Kunkel deceased.

VALLOINE MHP # F-6-129
 FREDERICK CO., MARYLAND
 1888 PLAT, EQUITY CASE NO. 5229

Col. John B. Kunkel
 Resurvey of
 Catocin Furnace Lands.

Scale of 100 Equal Parts.
 Surveyed and Plotted by
 R. A. Rogers

VALLONNE MIHP#F-6-129
FREDERICK CO., MARYLAND
1971 PROPOSED NR DISTRICT BOUNDARY
INCLUDING A PORTION OF THE SUBJECT FARM

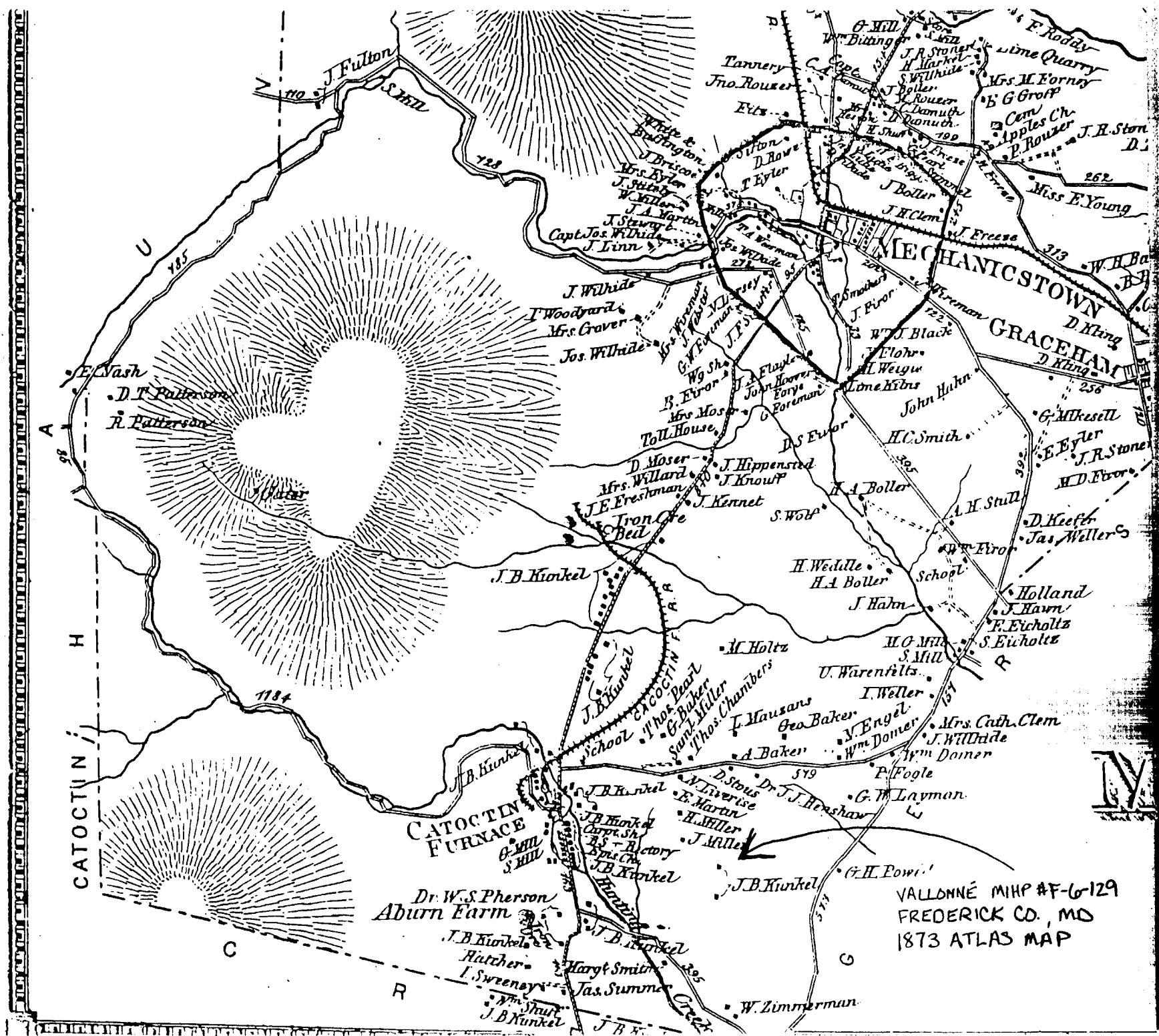


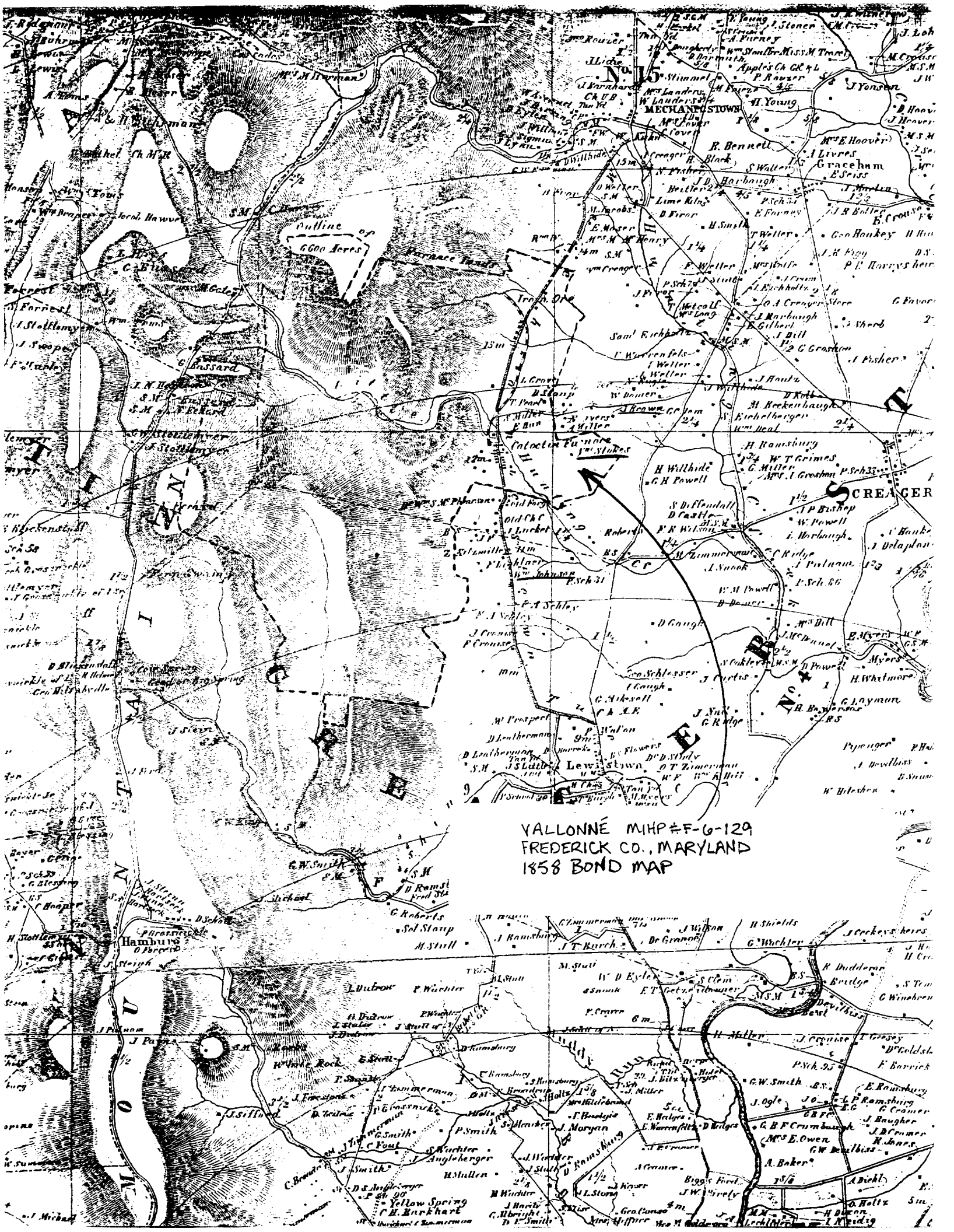
CATOCTIN FURNACE
proposed NR historic district
from 1873 Frederick atlas
from ca. 1860 map of Fredk Co.

CATACHTIN 100 4
F-2 NAC 1

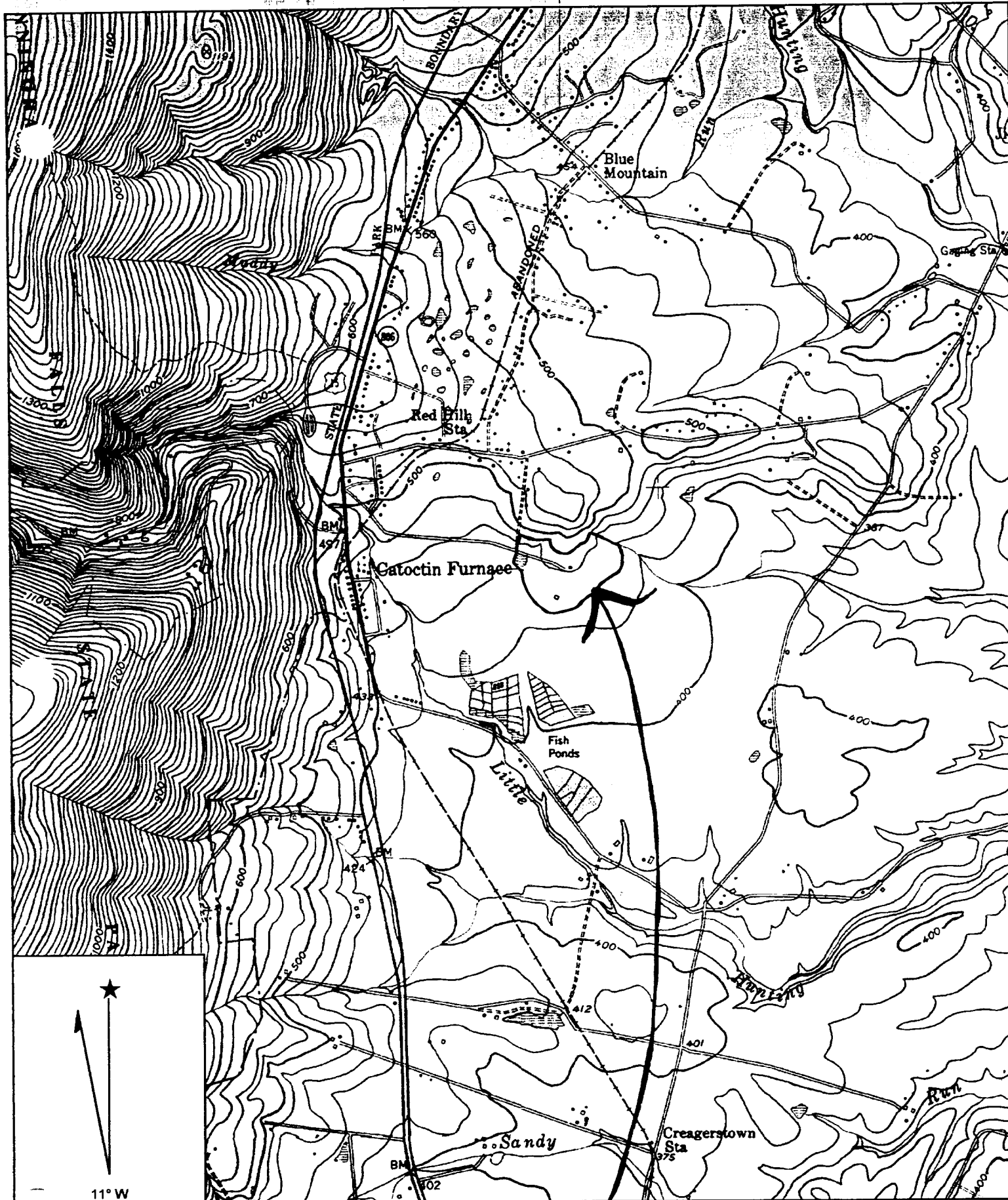
כ' אלול תש"א

SECRET





VALLONNE MHP#F-6-129
FREDERICK CO., MARYLAND
1858 BOND MAP



Name: CATOCTIN FURNACE QUAD
 Date: 1/28/2002
 Scale: 1 inch equals 2000 feet

Location: 039° 34' 41.3" N 077° 25' 29.4" W
 Caption: Vallonne MHP #F-6-129
 Frederick Co., Maryland







F-6-129

Volunt

Wendell Co. 1100

P. R. 11

1/5

W. 11/10/10

main house, 11/10/10, Central Hall 11/10/10

3/5



F-G-129

Valloung

Friedrich is MD

P.R. 2

1/25

Musa

mainly interior, E portion marked. E wall

4/9



F-6-1-10

Vols.

Frederick Co. P.O.

P. Road

1/02

1/15/02

rear yard outbuildings, view NW

1/15/02



F.G-129

Vallou

Friedrich Co, MD

P. 1003

Y2

1003

W. 1003 N. 1003

6/2



Yellowish

Fr. dark brown

1' high

1/02

in L. 100

man. 100 E elevations, view NW

1/9



F-6-121

Volkov

Proskudin

P. P. 1-1

1/02

the HRC

born four tallies, view S

3/13



F-6-129

Vol 1

Fredrickson

Read

W/O

M. 3212

Selfing view SW

9/9